

(Washington, D.C.) Today U.S. Representatives Mike Coffman (R-Colo), and Peter DeFazio, (D-Ore), jointly requested that the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, eliminate funding for the Selective Service System. The subcommittee is responsible for setting the annual government spending for the System, and is currently considering funding levels for 2014. Coffman and DeFazio believe the program should be unfunded and ended.

Selective Service is an independent agency within the United States government that maintains a database on all males between 18 and 25 years of age in case conscription is needed. The System, which was disbanded in 1975 and reinstated by Pres. Jimmy Carter five years later, costs taxpayers over \$24 million a year and requires all males to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days after their 18th birthday.

The bipartisan request follows legislation, HR 978, introduced by Coffman and DeFazio last month to abolish the Selective Service System. Coffman and DeFazio stress that the legislation will not jeopardize national security, as the military has not needed the draft in over 30 years. The measure allows the President to reinstate the program during a national emergency via executive order.

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Published April 17, 2013

